ICARUS ALTER[1]

Lines Written to Commemorate the Establishment of an Aerial Mail-Service between New York and Washington, May 15, 1918

Daedalus ecce novus mirandas suscitat artes
ocior ac ventis Icarus alter adest.
Remigio alarum densas evectus in auras
fratribus ille geret munera grata meis.
Murmurat en currus, ductorque repagula scandens
adspernit terras, caeruleasque petit
sedes, atque audax gaudet volitare per astra.
Caelipotens rector, te vehat ipse Deus!
cumque petes cursu Capitoli immobile saxum
caelo delapsus, navita, siste pedem.
Icariam vinces sortem, felicior arte:
laudes et nomen, postera fama canet.

JOHN C. REVILLE, S. J.

[1]Reprinted from America: A Catholic Review of the Week, of May 25, 1918. C. K.

MODERN MILITARY EFFECTIVES AND THE NERVIAN CAMPAIGNS

In an article in Classical Philology 13.283–300 (July, 1918), entitled The Date of Composition of Caesar's "Gallic War", I laid a certain stress, in pages 286–287, on the long noted discrepancy between the statements concerning the Nervian defeat in Book 2 of the De Bello Gallico and the fact of their formidable uprising three years later (Book 5). One of the most eminent of living Caesarean scholars, Mr. T. Rice Holmes, has suggested, Caesar's Conquest of Gaul², 206, n. 2, as one of several possible explanations, that the increase demanded is due to the presence of men who were too young to fight in 57 B. C. A recent article of M. Cheradame, on German Man Power, published in The New York Times, August 25, 1918, seems to me to render Mr. Holmes's view highly improbable.

M. Cheradame holds that the annual contingent furnished to the German army is not, as most military writers have believed, 400,000, but 700,000. He arrives at this conclusion by a searching analysis of the military and civilian statistics of Germany before and during the war. That is a rate of 10.07 men for every 1,000 of population. The purpose of M. Cheradame's article is to demonstrate that the authorities of the Allies have greatly underestimated German resources. It may well be presumed therefore that he himself has not underestimated them.

Now, in 57 B. C. the Nervians could put into the field a force of 50,000 men. By modern proportions, that would imply a population, at the time, of 250,000. The Helvetian statistics furnished us by Caesar himself, B. G. 1.29, upon documentary evidence, make it plain that approximately the same proportion held for ancient times. We may, accordingly, base our estimates upon a population of a quarter of a million.

If we grant to the Nervians of 57 B. C. a military organization and efficiency equal to that of modern Germany—a large concession, surely—, we may credit them with a yearly contingent of 2,517 fighting men. In three years that will amount to 7,551 men. Evidently, by no power of exaggeration, can that constitute the force of enormous size (5.42) and striking military skill (5.52) that besieged Quintus Cicero.

NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL, Elmhurst, New York City. MAX RADIN.

MILES IUVENIS[1]

Quo, miles iuvenis, via est?
"Pugna iustitiae vocat;
iura prodita gentium
defendam gladio meo":—
Miles o iuvenis, tua
arma sint benedicta!

Quo, miles iuvenis, via est?
"Auferam manicas truces
fratrum; vincula conteram,
quae gentes male comprimunt":—
Miles o iuvenis, tua
arma sint benedicta!

Quo, miles iuvenis, via est?
"Detergam lacrimas genis
infantum, manus hostica
pane quos spoliat suo":—
Miles o iuvenis, tua
arma sint benedicta!

Quo, miles iuvenis, via est?
"Leges caelitus editas
aeternasque potens tegam
armis iustitiae meis":—
Miles o iuvenis, tua
arma sint benedicta!

Quo, miles iuvenis, via est?
"Aris pro Domini Dei,
dirutis rabie gravis
belli, non metuam mori":—
Miles o iuvenis, tua
arma sint benedicta!

Quo, miles iuvenis, via est?
"Pro focis hominum sacris,
foeda quos violat manus,
fundetur cruor hic meus":—
Miles o iuvenis, tua
arma sint benedicta!

Quo, miles iuvenis, via est?
"In mortem ruo, dummodo
pacis munere floreat
felix patria libera":—
Miles o iuvenis, tua
arma sint benedicta,
SEPTUPLUM BENEDICTA!

ST. STANISLAUS SEMINARY, Florissant, Mo., April 28, 1918. A. F. GEYSER, S.J.

[1]This patriotic ode is based on a French prose-piece which I saw in a French Reader. The meter is that of Catullus 34, Dianae sumus in fide, etc. The first foot of each line may be a spondee, a trochee, or an iambus. The last verse of each stanza is, as in Catullus 34, a Pherecratic.